

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. An implantable device for controlling the internal circumference of an anatomic orifice or lumen, comprising:
an annular ring;
means by which said annular ring can be fastened to the tissue around an anatomic orifice or lumen;
10 means associated with said annular ring for permitting adjustment of the circumference of said annular ring from a first circumference to a second circumference; and
means associated with said annular ring for maintaining said ring in said first circumference and, upon said annular ring being adjusted to said second circumference, for maintaining
15 said annular ring in said second circumference;
whereby the circumference of said anatomic orifice or lumen can be adjusted by adjusting the circumference of said annular ring from said first circumference to said second circumference.
20

2. The implantable device of Claim 1, wherein said means by which said annular ring can be fastened to the tissue around an anatomic orifice or lumen comprises a plurality of barbs extending from said annular ring for engaging the tissue around said anatomic orifice or lumen.
25

3. The implantable device of Claim 2, wherein each of said barbs is oriented in a consistent, tangential direction with respect to the annular ring such that rotational motion of the annular ring in a first direction will engage said retention barbs with the desired tissue, and rotational motion of the annular ring in a direction opposite to said first direction will disengage said retention barbs from said desired tissue.
30

4. The implantable device of Claim 3, wherein each of said barbs further comprises a hook at its free end.

5 5. The implantable device of Claim 1, wherein said means by which said annular ring can be fastened to the tissue around an anatomic orifice or lumen comprises an outer fabric sheath covering said annular ring through which sutures can be placed to suture said implantable device to said tissue around said anatomic orifice or
10 lumen.

15 6. The implantable device of Claim 1, wherein said means by which said annular ring can be fastened to the tissue around an anatomic orifice or lumen comprises a plurality of grommets spaced around the periphery of said annular ring.

20 7. The implantable device of Claim 6, wherein said grommets have narrowed intermediate neck portions around which sutures can be placed and then through the underlying tissue to anchor said annular ring to the tissue around said anatomic orifice or lumen.

25 8. The implantable device of Claim 6, wherein said grommets are comprised of a material which is sufficiently soft that a suture can be placed through said grommet and through the underlying tissue to anchor said annular ring to the tissue around said anatomic orifice or lumen.

30 9. The implantable device of Claim 6, wherein said grommets comprise tabs comprised of a material which is sufficiently soft that a suture can be placed through said tab and through the underlying tissue to anchor said annular ring to the tissue around said anatomic orifice or lumen.

10. The implantable device of Claim 6, wherein said grommets comprise tabs, and wherein said tabs define holes through which a suture can be placed and then through the underlying tissue to anchor said annular ring to the tissue around said anatomic orifice
5 or lumen.

11. The implantable device of Claim 1, wherein said means associated with said annular ring for permitting adjustment of the circumference of said annular ring from a first circumference to a
10 second circumference comprises corrugations.

12. The implantable device of Claim 6, wherein said device comprises alternating sections of corrugations and grommets spaced around the periphery of said annular ring.
15

13. The implantable device of Claim 1,
wherein said annular ring comprises a hollow tube formed into an annular shape, said tube having interspaced smooth and corrugated sections disposed around its circumference,
20 wherein said means by which said annular ring can be fastened to the tissue around an anatomic orifice or lumen comprises said tube being sufficiently soft such that a suture can be passed through said tube and hence through the underlying tissue;
25 wherein said means associated with said annular ring for permitting adjustment of the circumference of said annular ring from a first circumference to a second circumference comprises said corrugated sections; and

wherein said means associated with said annular ring for maintaining said ring in said first circumference and, upon said annular ring being adjusted to said second circumference, for maintaining said annular ring in said second circumference comprises said corrugated sections being sufficiently stiff that once said annular ring is placed in a given configuration, it will tend to remain in said given configuration when acted upon by normal anatomic forces at said selected anatomic orifice or lumen.

10

14. The implantable device of Claim 1,
wherein said annular ring comprises a hollow tube formed into
an annular shape, said tube having interspaced smooth and
corrugated sections disposed around its circumference,

15

wherein said means by which said annular ring can be fastened
to the tissue around an anatomic orifice or lumen comprises
said tube having portions of narrowed circumference such
that a suture can be passed around said tube at said portions
of narrowed circumference and hence through the underlying
tissue;

20

wherein said means associated with said annular ring for
permitting adjustment of the circumference of said annular
ring from a first circumference to a second circumference
comprises said corrugated sections; and

25

wherein said means associated with said annular ring for
maintaining said ring in said first circumference and, upon
said annular ring being adjusted to said second circumference,
for maintaining said annular ring in said second circumference comprises said corrugated sections
being sufficiently stiff that once said annular ring is placed in
a given configuration, it will tend to remain in said given
configuration when acted upon by normal anatomic forces at
said selected anatomic orifice or lumen.

30

15. The implantable device of Claim 1, wherein said means associated with said annular ring for permitting adjustment of the circumference of said annular ring from a first circumference to a second circumference comprises:

5 teeth formed on at least a portion of said annular ring;
a gear engaging said teeth of said annular ring; and
said gear and said teeth being arranged such that turning said
gear effects relative movement between a first end of said
annular ring and a second end of said annular ring to adjust
10 the circumference of said annular ring from a first
circumference to a second circumference.

16. The implantable device of Claim 15, further comprising
a wheel positioned tangentially to said gear such that said portion of
15 said annular ring which engages said gear passes between said gear
and said wheel.

17. The implantable device of Claim 15, wherein said gear is
mounted in fixed relation to said second end of said annular ring, and
20 wherein said teeth are formed adjacent said first end of said annular
ring.

18. The implantable device of Claim 15, further comprising
means for turning said gear from a location remote from said gear,
25 such that said circumference of said implant can be adjusted after
closure of surgical incisions and resumption of physiological flow
through said orifice or lumen.

19. The implantable device of Claim 18, wherein said means
30 for turning said gear from a remote location is disengageable from
said gear after completion of adjustments.

20. The implantable device of Claim 1, wherein said means associated with said annular ring for permitting adjustment of the circumference of said annular ring from a first circumference to a second circumference comprises:

5 a worm gear; and
means operatively associated with a first end of said annular ring for engaging said worm gear such that rotation of said worm gear effects relative movement between said first end of said annular ring and a second end of said annular ring to
10 adjust the circumference of said annular ring from a first circumference to a second circumference.

21. The implantable device of Claim 20, wherein said worm gear has a first angled gear head at its driven end, and further
15 comprising a shaft in offset relation to said worm gear and having a second angled gear head at a first end thereof, said first and second angled gear heads drivably engaging such that rotation of said shaft drives said worm gear.

20 22. The implantable device of Claim 21, further comprising means for turning said shaft from a location remote from said worm gear, such that said circumference of said implant can be adjusted after closure of surgical incisions and resumption of physiological flow through said orifice or lumen.

25 23. The implantable device of Claim 22, wherein said shaft and said means for turning said shaft from a remote location are disengageable from said worm gear after completion of adjustments.